PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-33.   (Cancelled)

34.   (New) A discontinuous transmission controller, comprising:

a vocoder for generating active vocoder frames from a digitized audio signal at a predetermined output rate if speech is present, for generating inactive vocoder frames during periods of speech inactivity, wherein the inactive vocoder frames are not transmitted to a receiver, and for generating transition vocoder frames during transitions from speech activity to speech inactivity, said transition vocoder frames comprising comfort information.

35.   (New) The controller of claim 34, wherein the comfort information comprises background noise information.

36.   (New) The controller of claim 34, said controller further comprising:

a state vector generator, wherein the state vector generator is incremented only for each generated active or transition vocoder frame.

37.   (New) The controller of claim 36, wherein the controller is further adapted to encrypt each generated active and transition vocoder frames by using the state vector.

38.   (New) The controller of claim 36, wherein the controller is further adapted to disable the state vector for each inactive vocoder frame.

39.   (New) A method for controlling discontinuous transmissions, comprising:

determining a speech activity level in a received digitized audio signal;

generating a control signal based on the determined speech activity level;

generating active vocoder frames in a transmitter if said control signal indicates active speech activity;

generating transition frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates a transition between said active speech activity and inactive speech activity; and

generating inactive vocoder frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates inactive speech activity, wherein the inactive vocoder frames are not transmitted to a receiver.

40.   (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said transition vocoder frames comprise comfort information.

41.   (New) The method of claim 40, wherein said comfort information comprises background noise information.

42.   (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the speech activity level is a voice activity level.

43.   (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
generating a state vector; and
incrementing the state vector for each generated active or transition vocoder frame.

44.   (New) The method of claim 43, further comprising:
disabling the state vector for each inactive vocoder frame.

45.   (New) The method of claim 43, further comprising encrypting the generated active and transition vocoder frames by using the state vector.

46.   (New) An apparatus for controlling discontinuous transmissions, comprising:
means for determining a speech activity level in a received digitized audio signal;
means for generating a control signal based on the determined speech activity level;
means for generating active vocoder frames in a transmitter if said control signal indicates active speech activity;

means for generating transition frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates a transition between said active speech activity and inactive speech activity; and

means for generating inactive vocoder frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates inactive speech activity, wherein the inactive vocoder frames are not transmitted to a receiver.

47.   (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein said transition vocoder frames comprise comfort information.

48.   (New) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein said comfort information comprises background noise information.

49.   (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the speech activity level is a voice activity level.

50.   (New) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising:

means for generating a state vector; and

means for incrementing the state vector for each generated active or transition vocoder frame.

51.   (New) The apparatus of claim 50, further comprising:

means for disabling the state vector for each inactive vocoder frame.

52.   (New) The apparatus of claim 50, further comprising:

means for encrypting the generated active and transition vocoder frames by using the state vector.

53.   (New) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for controlling discontinuous transmissions, said instructions being executable by at least one computer to:

determine a speech activity level in a received digitized audio signal;

generate a control signal based on the determined speech activity level;

generate active vocoder frames in a transmitter if said control signal indicates active speech activity;

generate transition frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates a transition between said active speech activity and inactive speech activity; and

generate inactive vocoder frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates inactive speech activity, wherein the inactive vocoder frames are not transmitted to a receiver.

54.　(New)　The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein said transition vocoder frames comprise comfort information.

55.　(New)　The computer-readable medium of claim 54, wherein said comfort information comprises background noise information.

56.　(New)　The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the speech activity level is a voice activity level.

57.　(New) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, further comprising instructions being executable by at least one computer to:

generate a state vector; and

increment the state vector for each generated active or transition vocoder frame.

58.　(New)　The medium of claim 57, further comprising instructions being executable by at least one computer to:

disable the state vector for each inactive vocoder frame.